

Southeast Education Cooperative Waiver Continuation Arkansas State Board of Education April 13, 2017

Waivers Requested

Pursuant to Act 1240 of 2015, codified at Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-103, the McGehee School District hereby request the following waivers granted on July 15, 2016 for a one year period from the Arkansas State Board of Education be continued for a five year period ending June 30, 2022.

Arkansas Code Annotated

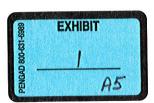
- Ark. Code Ann. §6-15-1004 Qualified teachers in every public school classroom
- Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-309 Certified to teach grade or subject matterexceptions-waivers
- Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-401 Teacher licensure requirement
- Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-902 Definition (definition of a teacher as licensed)
- Ark. Code Ann. §6-17-919 Warrants void without valid certification and contract (the ability to pay a teacher's salary only upon filing of a teacher's certification with the county clerk's office, if the requirement of a teacher's certificate is waived for such teacher)
- Ark. Code Ann. §6-25-103 Library media services program defined
- Ark. Code Ann. §6-25-104 Library media specialist qualifications

Standards for Accreditation

- Standards of Accreditation Section 15.03
- Standards of Accreditation Section 16.02

ADE Rules

ADE Rules Governing Educator Licensure



Rationale for Waiver

The McGehee School District in the Southeast Co-op is now eligible for waivers under Act 1240. The McGehee School District continues to face a major challenge when attempting to hire licensed teachers to fill the vacancies created by retirement, attrition and the severe teacher shortage in our area of the state. The McGehee School District recognizes that a highly qualified teacher is the single most important factor influencing student learning in the classroom. Our greatest desire is to hire a fully licensed highly qualified teacher for each opening that exists in our schools. Our greatest desire is to have a stable teacher workforce for our students, our districts, and our communities.

The enormity of the challenge to find and recruit licensed teachers in our area has not improved. The decline in the economics of the region continues. The number of candidates in the teacher preparation program at the colleges that supply the majority of Co-op area teachers has continued to decrease. After a major push to recruit education students, the University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM) has 11 interns student teaching for the 2016-17 year.

The McGehee School District was granted waivers for 2016-17 school year along with twelve other school districts in the Southeast Co-op area. The McGehee School District hired 18 new teachers this year. Twelve of the 18 teachers hired were fully licensed teachers. Six of the 18 were hired under the Act 1240 waiver. Of the six teachers hired under the Act 1240 waivers all six of these teachers have enrolled in a non-traditional licensure program and are seeking an Arkansas teaching licensure. Three of the six still need to only pass a Praxis test to acquire an Arkansas licensure. All six of the Act 1240 teachers have completed ProEthica online training. In addition all six teacher have had ethics training on the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators at the start of the school year in the McGehee School District.

The McGehee School District recruits fully licensed highly qualified teachers for all open positions in our districts. The problem again is that the demand for fully licensed teachers exceeds the supply in our area. Our school district personnel make it very clear when interviewing and hiring potential candidates that are not licensed that they must enter a pathway to complete their Arkansas licensure if they wish to continue their employment with the district. Because of our Co-op

districts' emphasis on all Act 1240 teachers entering a pathway to become a fully licensed teacher the UAM Masters of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program and other non-traditional program numbers have increased. In 2015-16, the MAT program at UAM had 70 potential teachers enrolled. On March 17, 2017 the MAT program has 123 teachers enrolled. The waivers have been a bright spot in our quest to recruit teachers to our area. The waivers have enabled us to hire highly motivated, capable college graduates to complete a non-traditional pathway and acquire an Arkansas teaching license. These teachers are given support, guidance, direction, incentives and mentorship while becoming highly capable teachers.

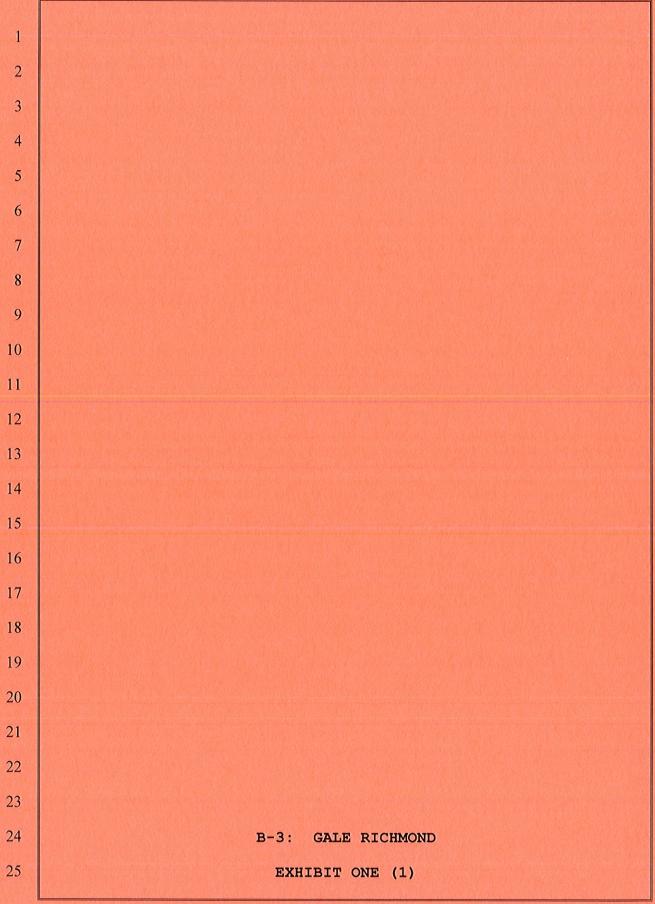
Additional support was provided in August and September by the Co-op in classroom management and Tess to the ACT 1240 teachers. Each Act 1240 teacher was assigned a specialist from the Co-op to answer questions and provide support in teaching and learning. This support is in addition to the mentor that each teacher was assigned at the local school district where they teach. The McGehee School District pays \$2,500 per year for two years to help teachers with tuition for the UAM MAT Program. The McGehee School District pays Praxis fees in hardship circumstances for teachers to take the Praxis tests. The district reimburses teachers for the licensure fee when the teachers are eligible for a standard Arkansas Licensure.

The McGehee School District has made it very plain to the teachers hired under Act 1240 waivers that they want them to become a fully licensed teacher and to stay in the teaching profession for years to come. We have given the six teachers hired under Act 1240 the opportunity to teach while completing a traditional or non-traditional pathway to licensure. The teachers have been provided support and access to continue their journey to becoming a fully licensed teacher in the state of Arkansas. This has become the best recruiting tool for teachers that we have found in the McGehee School District.

Our school district continues to recruit fully licensed teachers and potential teachers through every avenue possible. The McGehee School District has attended college fairs at ASU, UAPB, SAU, UAM, ATU and Southeast Coop/ADE Recruitment Fair. On October 24, 2016, three recruiters from McGehee attended the Southeast Co-op and Arkansas Department of Education "Becoming an Arkansas Teacher "recruitment fair. This event was highly advertised both statewide and by the local fourteen districts in the Southeast Co-op. There were

seven potential teachers that attended. These seven potential teachers were swarmed by attentive recruiters from Co-op districts. Two of the seven participants that attended are currently in the paraprofessional track to teaching at UAM. They both stated their intent to teach in the district they are currently working in as soon as they graduate.

We will continue to recruit fully licensed teachers for each open position. However, the demand far exceeds the supply. The waivers will provide the McGehee School District with a pathway to highly capable, motivated college graduates that we can encourage, support and mentor into becoming fully licensed teachers. Please give us your utmost consideration for continued waivers under Act 1240.



LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1. Statement of Gale Richmond

Attachment 2. Employment Reference Letters

Attachment 3. Character Reference Letters

Attachment 4. No Criminal History Report

Attachment 5. Web-Based Training Certificates

Attachment 6. Relevant Professional Development Training Certificates



ATTACHMENT 1: STATEMENT OF GALE RICHMOND

01 TO1 YOT 1 TO: 72 8706337134 ADMIN

PAGE 27/36

Gave Richmond 870- 270-0224

March 4, 2017

To whom this may concerns,

It was requested that I show proof of participation in or completion of any Treatment or Rehabilitation Program. I have taken workshops dealing with child abuse and child maltreatment during my in service through the Forrest City Schools. The in service was recorded in my shoebox account through Great Rivers. I do have some certificates where I have attended some workshops through the school District where I worked. Back in 2004, I do not remember anyone telling me that I had to or scheduled me to attend any kind of programs, if so I would have been there. Any workshops on child Abuse, or Neglect, I always signed up for them. I know I am rehabilitated. I have not did anything to cause any harm to any child not even my own children. When I had to go to court on Failure to Protect. This really changed my whole life. I am very aware and protected of my own children even though they are all grown. I also feel the same way about the students I have taught for many years. I remember back in 2004, I was enrolled in some Case Work Counseling I think the lady name was Evette Wright, that set this up. This is the only thing I can remember. When ever my name is removed, I will continue to seek workshops on this topic, because this is very serious, and everyone need to be aware. I have never gotten a speeding ticket. The day I was

Page 2

called down to the Forrest City Police Department and I had to go to court not knowing what was going to happen to me, This Changed my whole life completely. I kept my daughters really closed to me after this. They were always with me. I could not imagined being in jail or prison or my children in foster care. This was also part of my Rehabilitation. I got it right. The only person that I TRUST is God. I have found me a church home, and my pastor, Bishop Connie Moore counseled me. The Bishop also teaches about abuse, and to always watch your children and that you cannot have any and everybody around your children. Trust me, I do listen. I pray that my name comes off of the list.

Soncerey, Ball Rochman

ATTACHMENT 2: EMPLOYMENT REFERENCE LETTERS

Gale Richmy Central Etemontary



Central Elementary School 801 Deadrick Rd Forrest City, AR 72335 870-633-2141 870-261-1836

February 16, 2017

To Whom it May Concern,

The purpose of this letter is to speak to the character of Gail Richmond, whom I have had the pleasure to work with over the past two years.

In my time as Ms. Richmond's Assistant Principal, I have gained a tremendous amount of respect for her professionalism. Ms. Richmond is reliable, efficient, and demonstrates great compassion for her students. She always goes the extra mile to provide any and all necessary support towards the academic and social needs of all students.

Ms. Richmond is well-liked at Central Elementary, and is among the most highly requested teachers by parents in the community. Ms. Richmond is well respected by her colleagues, and always engages in opportunities intended to improve her professional practices. Ms. Richmond demonstrates a great level of moral character, and is always kind and generous towards anyone that she encounters.

All students deserve a teacher such as Ms. Richmond. Ms. Richmond has been nothing short of a phenomenal teacher during the time that I have known her. It is my hope that this letter will serve as evidence of the need to grant Ms. Richmond's request of removing an unfortunate accusation from her maltreatment record. Please contact me if you have any questions.

DeAngels Graham Assistant Principal

Sincercly,

Gave Richmons

February 11, 2017

I was given the most pleasurable opportunity to serve as Gale Rogers Richmond's principal and supervisor for 20 years at Central Elementary School (1991-2011).

I could not have asked to work with a more caring, concerned, loyal, dedicated and supportive staff member than Mrs. Richmond.

During my tenure at Central, she taught 2nd grade and did an outstanding job with students. Mrs. Richmond always went above and beyond to meet the needs of her children.

She made each moment count and gave endless praises to students for their efforts.

When constructive criticism had to be addressed she disciplined with love. She always provided a comfortable and relaxed learning environment for her Students.

Mrs. Richmond always gave me the greatest of respect and enjoyed a most coordial relationship with her co-workers, parents and all others who came in contact with her.

Working with her was a genuine pleasure. The Forrest City School District is fortunate to have her as an employee. Most definitely, the teaching profession needs more people like Gale Rogers Richmond.

Sincerely,

Willie L. Doly Retired Principal

ATTACHMENT 3: CHARACTER REFERENCE LETTERS

To whom this my concern,

My mother Gale Richmond has always been very caring and loving of not only me and my siblings, but anyone she has ever came into contact with. She has made many sacrifices just so we all could have a good life and never want for anything. She's not only the world's greatest mother to me, but she's one of the world's greatest teachers. My mom has been teaching for almost 29 years even while pregnant with me and my sister. I can't remember a time when my mom hasn't been there for me and my siblings especially being a single parent, but that didn't stop her from being such a wonderful mother. She's well respected in our community I can't tell you how many times someone has mentioned to me how wonderful of a teacher she is to their love ones. I know for a fact she wouldn't do anything intentionally to cause harm to me, my siblings, or any other child. I've never doubted her parenting skills even after my dad got out of prison until the day he passed away in 2014. After that incident with my dad she has never let a man come near me or my sister while living with her, she was very protected of us. My love for her is unconditional and I wouldn't trade her for anything in this world. Unfortunately, I couldn't make it to be by her side because I reside in Arlington, TX and have started a new job, but I support my mom Gale Richmond 1000%

Arleena Richmond

APR 03 2017

Gale Richmond Krorn: Agaira Richmond

To Whom this may Concern, My Mother (Gale Richmond) is the best thing that ever happened to me. Because of her I'm the Workan I am today. I Truly Thank her-for being there-formed for All the practices, Competitions, and held trips. She has been my biggest tan through every single stage OF My URY and I Cautent ask for a better Objecteder I Thank her for knowing when I was wrong and spanking me where I was being a brati I may not have liked it then, but looking back, I know I'm better Aff. I Thank hed for holding me white I lived and promising) me that Temoras would be a better day, shets been my rock through breakyps, life Leeisians, and new Chapters. The Carried me through when I was convinced I couldn't go ar. II Thank that amusing, woman for becoming my very best friend, being my flistand dailyd phane (all, and being) my biggat and Most Canny Confidant. She answers ther phone With the same enthysiasm every time, whether It's my first or the fifth Call of the day. I am demaly grateful. Most importantly Truly Thank Her for proceeding me from any hurst or danger like a mother should. I thank

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Agoura Richmond

her for showing me right from Wang, for encouraging me in my walk of faith, and for Other Part for myself as well. She has a always pushed me to be the very best version of invited and to work for the Ghings I want, rather than to expect them, shedmade me Independent by telling me to never rely on anythe but dears to inherted my Connetions and my passion from natching Her, and I'm al better person because lofit, she always believed in me, There's nothing I Want more than to make her proved. I Thank my mother for leeping me granded. The neverthes Hated to remited me where I lame from and Sometimes, I needed that RUMY Check. I Truly lave my mother shes my role matel and even though I laughed aft everyone that told me this uculd happen, She's My hast friend. I got my independence and my sass from her, and the audn't be More thankful, Sometimes, I knew I get busy, last she is Truly appreciated I wouldn't be the woman I am today it it wouldn't tor her. I Thank her for absolutely. She's My hero, Love Hways, tour Olayghter/Hgala)

Gale Richmond

GREATER MT. MORIAH M. B. CHURCH

2/15/17

To Whom It May Concern;

I am writing this letter regarding Mrs. Gayle Richmond. I have known Gayle since 2005, and I have known her to be a kind, caring and considerate person. Gayle is a member of our church and is active in the ministries of our church. Gayle's personality has always been above reproach, and she has proven to be courteous to those who come in contact with her. I am proud and honored to write this letter expressing the calm character of Mrs. Gayle Richmond. I can be reach for further questions at 870 394-1769, or bishopclmoore@gmail.com.

Thank You.

Bishop C. L. Moore

Bishap C. LA Moure

4986 Hwy 1 North Caldwell, Atkansas 72323 P.O Box 328 Forrest City, Arkansas 72338

Bishop C. L. Moore, Paster 870 633-4845 bishopelmoore@gmail.com

Gare Richman

Evelyn J Provost

P O Box 693

Springdale, AR 72765

TO: IT MAY CONCERN:

I'm writeing this letter on behalf of my sister Gale Richmond, she is one of the sweetest person I know, very patient and intellgent.

She had a love for her family, she does every to show her love in the community, and the church..

She love spending time with her students, and look forward to seeing them. She has spent (28.6) twenty eight and a half years with the public school system.

During the summer months she help kids to learn to read, read mail for older people that can't read for themselves. We love her so much because, she is a lovely person to spend time with, and to be around.

f. Prouset

Sinceply Yours

Evelyn J Provosť

ATTACHMENT 4: NO CRIMINAL HISTORY REPORT

-State Police

3/2/2017 https://www.ark.org/criminal/logIn/index.php?lna_sec_csrf=0cd9a9fbc6bdf1e0ed6ca08bf4627669&ac:show:search;extra;searchId:2148752;search_step:R=1

ARKANSAS STATE POLICE

Arkansas Criminal History Report

This report is based on a name search. There is no guarantee that it relates to the person you are interested in without fingerprint verification. This report includes a check of Arkansas files only. Inquiries into FBI files are not permitted for non-criminal justice or employment purposes without specific statutory authority.

Subject of Record

Last: Richmond

First: Gale

Middle:

Date of Birth: 02/17/1961

Sex: F

Race: B

Social Security Number: 430119588 (not verified, supplied at time of request)

- NO CRIMINAL HISTORY FOUND FOR THIS SUBJECT

Requestor Information

Transaction Number: 002148752

Date: 03/02/2017

Agency Reporting: Arkansas State Police

Purpose: Arkansas Code Annotated 12-12-1501 through 1513 allows the release of Arkansas non-criminal justice background information to persons who have the signed consent of the subject of the record. The release form on file with the employer, service provider or third party must indicate that the employer or Service Provider/Third Party Agent on behalf of the employer or subject shall have the authority to request the criminal background check. INA and the Arkansas State Police will hold the third party responsible for any inquiries or audits that may be conducted,

reased To: Wesley Wilkins On Behalf of Gale Richmond

Representing: Self

Mailing Address: 317 South Rolfe St. Forrest City, AR 72335

This Arkansas criminal history record report should only be used for the purpose that it was requested. A request that is posed for a different purpose

This report does not preclude the possible existence of additional records on this person which may not have been reported to the State Identification Bureau and Central Repository. Changes in a criminal history record can occur at any time due to new arrests and/or ongoing legal proceedings.

This Arkensas criminal background check report is for non-criminal justice purposes and may only reflect if a person has any Arkansas felony and misdemeanor conviction(s), any Arkansas felony arrest that occurred in the last three (3) years that has not been to court and whether the person is a registered sex offender or required to register as a sex offender. Juvenile errest and/or court information will not be released on this report.

ATTACHMENT 5: WEB-BASED TRAINING CERTIFICATES



This is to certify that

Gale Richmond

has completed the course

Behavior is Communication

March 5, 2017

The awarding of professional development credit of this ADP, approved online maining is solely at the discretion of the local school district,



Credit Hours: 1.5

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This is to certify that

Gale Richmond

has completed the course

Parental Involvement: Introduction

March 5, 2017

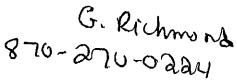
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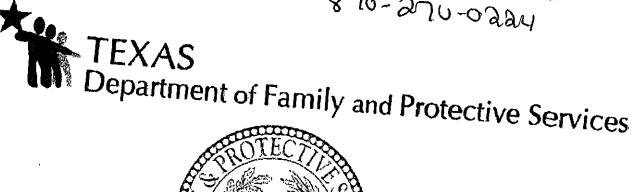


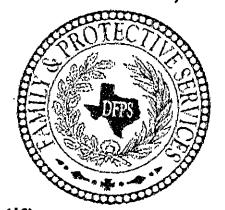
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Page 1 of 1







Certificate of Completion

is hereby granted to

Gale Richmond

to certify that he/she has completed the one-hour Reporting Suspected Abuse or Neglect of a Child: A Guide for Education Professionals Web-based Training on 3/3/2017

> Together We Can Protect the Unprotected http://www.dfps.state.tx.us

Henry "Hank" Whitman, Jr., DFPS Commissioner

To make a report of suspected abuse and/or neglect by phone: 1(800) 252-5400

To make a non-urgent report of suspected abuse and/or neglect via the web: http://www.txabusehotline.org/Login/Default.aspx

The awarding of professional development credit of this ADE-approved online training is solely at the discretion of the local school district, CERTIFICATE of ACHIEVEMENT Act 1236 of 2011: Child Maltreatment (January 2014) Gale Richmond has completed the course This is to certify that February 28, 2017 Credit Hours: 2 OPnikcACXQ PAGE としていして 1人



This is to certify that

Gale Richmond

has completed the course

Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse: Training for Arkansas Reporters

February 28, 2017

The awarding of professional development credit for this ADE-approved online training is solely at the discretion of the local school district.



Credit Hours: 1.5





ATTACHMENT 6: RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

Personal Professional Development Record

GALE RICHMOND

6/1/06 - 5/31/07

TEACHER

CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, CENTRAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Professional Licensure

Personal Professional Development Record

GALE RICHMOND

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BUILDING LEVEL MEETING		3.00
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Personal Professional Development Record

GALE RICHMOND

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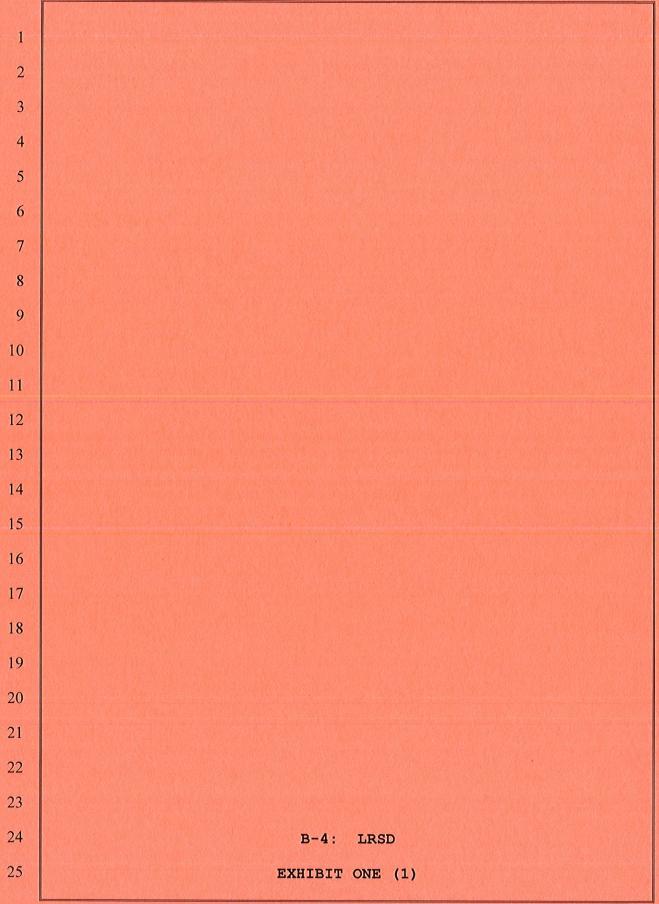
Personal Professional Development Record

GALE RICHMOND

TEACHER

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Total Credit Earned:	79.00



Act 930 Timeline 2017-2018

- Continue meeting with educational organizations (ASBA, AAEA, AEA, and others) to discuss Draft AESAA Rule
 - · AESAA Law enacted

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ADE expands dissemination of information to all districts and coops to discuss AESAA Law & Draft AESAA Rule(s)
 Transition Academic Distress Districts (prior ACTAAP) understate authority for Academic Distress District to Level 5 linensive Support
 2017-2018 School Year begins collaborate with Schools with Academic Distress Schools and/or Focus Schools (under prior ACTAAP), Priority Schools and/or Focus Schools (under ESBA Flexibility) to develop a customized District Transitional Support Plan (individualized by district) for SY17-18

Summer School improvement Conference for current Priority and Focus Schools (Possible sessions on AESAA, ESSA and Transitional plan for SY17-18)

 AESAA Bill becomes Act 930 of 2017 April 2017























- Application
 Application
 Application
 Submitted for
 approval from
 Projected date
 AESAA Rule could
 be submitted for
 Public Comments
 Continue meeting
 with district and
 coops to discuss
 AESAA Rule(s) (as



ADE begins
writing First Draft
of AESAA Rule(s)
(developed by
ADE and
stakeholders)
 ADE meets with
outside
organizations to
discuss Draft
AESAA Rule(s)
and begins
feedback loops

ACT Aspire results provides to districts and schools for review

July 2017



CERTIFICATE

STATE	OF	P	ARKANSAS)	
)	SS
COUNTY	OE	?	SALINE)	

I, SHARON K. HILL, CCR, a Certified Stenomask Reporter before whom the foregoing testimony was taken, do hereby certify that the same is a true and correct transcription of proceedings before the Arkansas State Board of Education, in Little Rock, Arkansas, on April 13, 2017, that the said testimony was reduced to typewritten form by me or under my direction and supervision; and that the foregoing pages constitute a true and correct transcription of all evidence heard and proceedings had in said matter.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this hearing was taken.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I have no contract with any parties within this action that affects or has a substantial tendency to affect impartiality, that requires me to relinquish control of an original transcript or copies of the transcript before it is certified and delivered to the custodial agency, or that requires me to provide any service not made available to all parties to the action.

WITNESS, MY HAND AND SEAL, THIS DATE: April 25, 2017.



SHARON K. HILL, CCR

Certified Court Reporter Certificate No. 670

